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The VEGETABLE SITUATION

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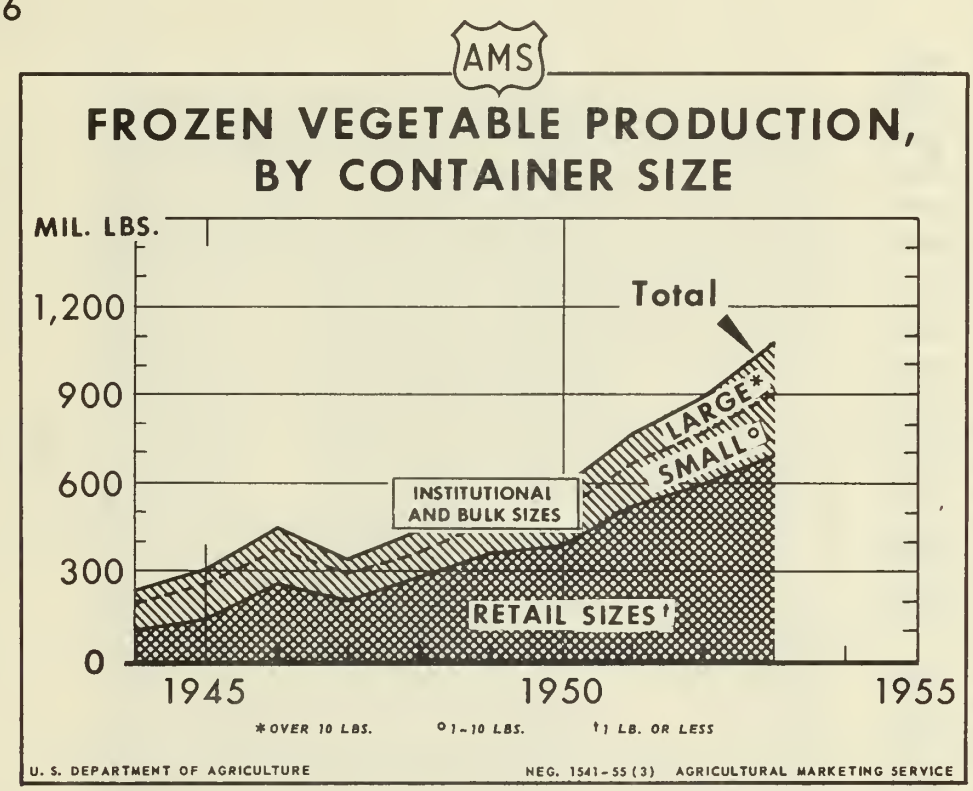
In this issue on page 13:
A Brief Analysis of Production of Frozen Vegetables by Major Container Size, 1944-53.



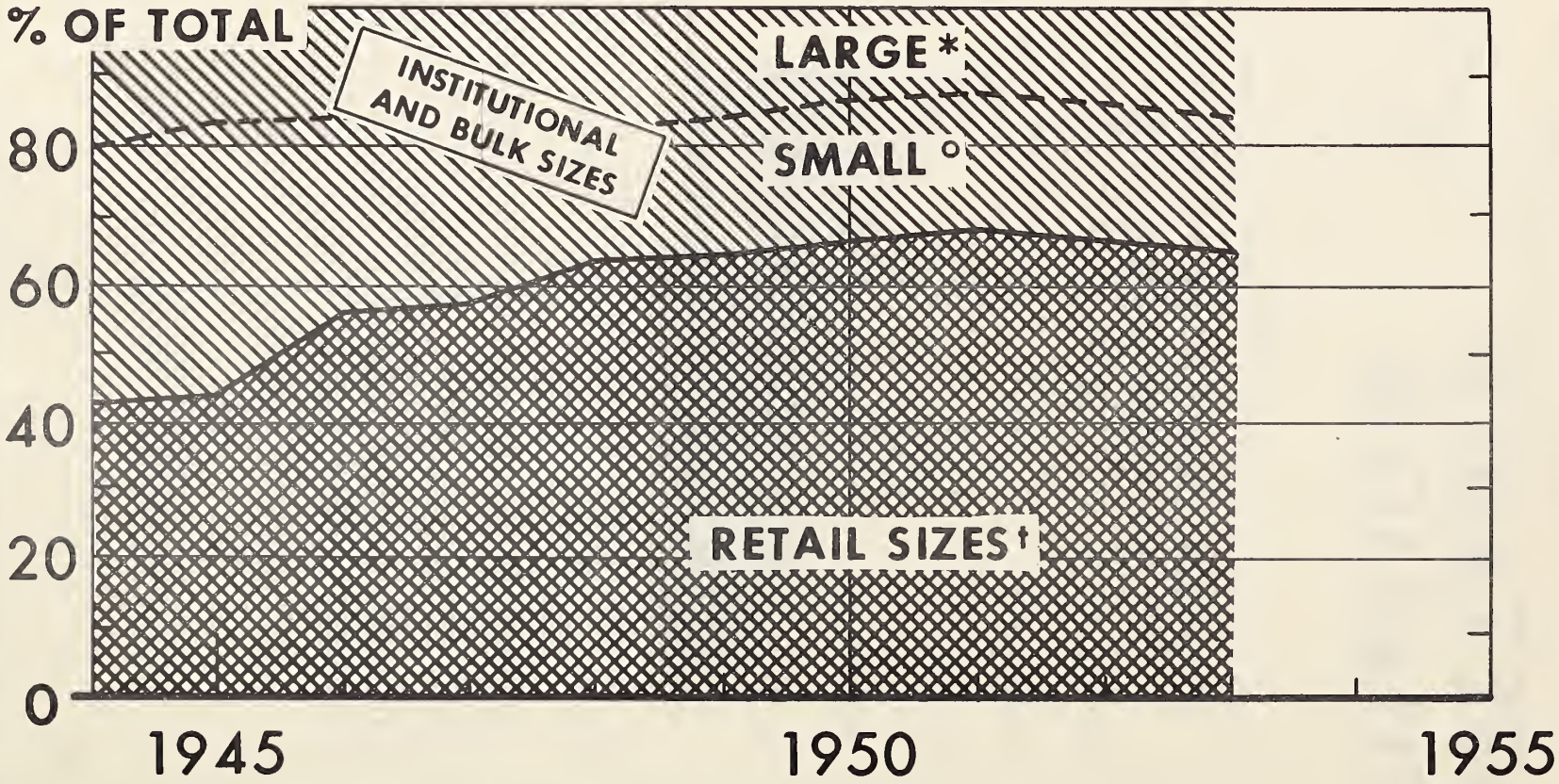
The very rapid rise in the commercial production of frozen vegetables from 1944 to 1953 was accompanied by a sharp increase in the volume packed in retail-size containers. The total pack in institutional and bulk containers also expanded during this 10-year period, but the increase was not as great as for the retail sizes. Since 1946 the annual "retail pack" has been larger than the "institutional and bulk pack," reflecting the growing demand for frozen vegetables--as well as other commercially processed foods--to be prepared for consumption at home.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
AGRICULTURAL MARKETING SERVICE

AGRICULTURE - WASHINGTON

Frozen Vegetables

PACK BY CONTAINER SIZE AS % OF TOTAL PRODUCTION



*OVER 10 LBS. °1-10 LBS. † 1 LB. OR LESS

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE NEG. 1542-55 (3) AGRICULTURAL MARKETING SERVICE

THE VEGETABLE SITUATION

Approved by the Outlook and Situation Board, April 20, 1955

SUMMARY

Current prospects indicate prices received by farmers for vegetables grown for fresh market sale will average somewhat higher this spring than last. Consumer demand for fresh vegetables is expected to be at least as strong as in spring 1954, but supplies probably will be much smaller, at least until the latter part of this spring.

The smaller supplies this spring than last reflect the destruction or damage to vegetable crops in a number of important producing areas by unfavorable weather. Among the important spring vegetables for which production forecasts have been made to date, substantially smaller crops than last year are expected for snap beans, cabbage, celery, and cucumbers. More moderate reductions appear likely for cauliflower, sweet corn, lettuce, early-spring onions, and tomatoes. These declines will only partly be offset by larger production of asparagus, broccoli, carrots, and spinach.

The prospective acreage of summer watermelons is about 10 percent larger than that harvested a year earlier, but summer cabbage and onion acreages in 1955 are both expected to be about the same as in 1954.

Supplies of both canned and frozen vegetables available for distribution during the remainder of the 1954-55 marketing year are smaller than a year earlier. Among the individual commodities, snap beans and sweet corn are the only major exceptions. Average retail prices of processed vegetables in the next few months probably will at least equal those of a year earlier.

With carryover stocks likely to be smaller and consumer demand about as strong as in 1954-55, the pack of processed vegetables in 1955 is expected to be close to that in 1954, if growing conditions for the processing crop are normal. As of April 1, indications pointed to a small increase in the acreage planted to green peas for processing, but reductions for snap beans, sweet corn, and in acreage contracted for kraut cabbage. Preliminary production estimates indicate a 40 percent larger winter and early-spring crop of spinach for processing this year than in 1954.

Prices received by growers for potatoes this spring are expected to average higher than in the same period of 1954. Consumer demand for potatoes is expected to approximate that of last spring.

The 1955 early-spring crop is a little smaller than last year's and marketings from producing areas may be up to 3 weeks later than usual. Unfavorable weather in late March destroyed or retarded development of the potato crop in a number of late-spring harvest areas. In the latter part of the spring some downward adjustment in prices from earlier levels is possible as marketings from the late-spring potato areas reach a peak and shipments from summer areas start gathering momentum.

Reports in early March indicated that farmers plan to plant almost as many acres to intermediate-and late-crop potatoes this year as last. If yields equal the 1950-54 average by States, production on this acreage would be larger than the corresponding 1954 crops. A 1955 late-potato crop even a little larger than last year's probably could not be readily marketed at prices equal to those received for the 1954 late crop, especially if the average quality is better.

Supplies of sweetpotatoes remaining to be marketed in 1954-55 are smaller than a year earlier, and the farm price for this commodity is expected to continue higher at least until the new crop is moving to market in heavy volume after mid-year. Earlier this year, reports from farmers indicated that about as many acres would be planted to sweetpotatoes as in 1954. Yields equal to the 1949-53 average would produce a crop one-eighth larger than last year's but one-fourth smaller than the 1944-53 average. In 1954 unfavorable growing conditions reduced yields in many of the southern States.

Moderate increases in acreage planted to both dry edible beans and dry field peas are likely this year compared with last. Heavier production in 1955 may mean lower prices to growers than those received for the 1954 crops of dry beans and peas unless exports are unusually large, since domestic utilization of these commodities in 1955-56 will probably be close to that of the preceding year. The national average price-support level for 1955-crop dry edible beans has been set at $6.36 per hundred pounds, compared with $7.24 in effect for 1954-crop dry beans. Dry field peas do not come under the support program.

COMMERCIAL VEGETABLES FOR FRESH MARKET

Unfavorable Weather Reduces Spring Supplies Below Year-ago Total

Total production of vegetables this spring is expected to be much smaller than last spring because of the 3 percent smaller early-spring acreage than last year and unfavorable weather. In many important growing areas in southeastern and south central States insufficient rainfall during the winter was detrimental to spring vegetables; record low temperatures on March 26 and 27 destroyed or retarded development of the spring crop in these areas. The size of the spring vegetable crop--especially that part which is harvested during the mid- and late-spring seasons in these southern areas--will depend both on the extent to which acreage is replanted and on growing conditions during the remainder of the spring season. In the western States below-normal temperatures earlier in the year have been unfavorable for spring vegetable production.

Forecasts prepared for crops which accounted for half of last year's spring production indicate a 7 percent smaller tonnage this spring. Among the important fresh vegetables for which spring output indications are available, a heavier tonnage than a year earlier is in prospect for asparagus, broccoli, carrots, and spinach. These increases are expected to be more than offset by moderate to sharp declines for snap beans, cabbage, cauliflower, celery, sweet corn, cucumbers, lettuce, onions, and tomatoes. The crop of green peppers forecast for this spring is about as large as last spring.

With consumer demand for fresh vegetables likely to be at least as strong as in April-June 1954, the smaller supplies in prospect point to higher prices to growers of these crops in early spring. During late spring the usual seasonal increase in marketings is expected to be augmented by supplies from areas which normally harvest their crop earlier in the spring, but which have been delayed by adverse weather this year. With larger supplies marketed in late spring, prices in general are expected to decline from the levels which prevailed earlier in this season.

Prospects for the Major Spring and Summer Crops

Watermelons--This crop is the heaviest contributor to total tonnage of vegetables harvested in summer, although not most important in terms of value. Tomatoes, onions, and cantaloups usually surpass the summer watermelon crop in value, and occasionally this is true of lettuce and sweet corn.

A moderately larger acreage of watermelons is expected this year. Reports for late-spring watermelons point to a 9 percent smaller acreage than in 1954, but this decline is expected to be more than offset by 10 percent larger acreage in prospect for summer. The late-spring crop this year probably will be somewhat smaller than that of a year earlier unless yield per acre is much larger than the above-average yield in 1954. Because adverse growing conditions retarded growth in Florida and California, the crop will probably be harvested a little later this spring than usual. In the last 5 years the late-spring crop has represented from a fourth to a third of the annual watermelon crop.

The early-summer watermelon crop is the most important of the year; it usually accounts for from half to two-thirds of the annual crop. This year, acreage in the early-summer area is expected to be about 10 percent larger than in 1954 and 25 percent above the 5-year (1949-53) average. Thus, even if the yield on this acreage equals that of 1954, which was below average, supplies will still be heavier than those of last year. Farm prices for summer watermelons will probably average no higher than the relatively low ones of 1954.

Because of unfavorable weather earlier in the year, marketings of early-summer watermelons are expected to be delayed. Drouth during March retarded planting operations in a number of important areas which grow watermelons for sale in early summer. Also, freezing temperatures in late March destroyed those watermelons which had been planted earlier in the season in these areas. Most of the acreage that was lost is expected to be replanted. Watermelons from the acreage that was replanted will be marketed at about the same time as those from acreages that were planted on schedule in early April.

The 1955 late-summer acreage of watermelons is expected to be about 5 percent larger than last year's, with increases in Virginia, Delaware, Maryland, Oregon, and Washington. These increases would more than offset reductions in Indiana and Iowa.

Onions--The early-spring onion crop will be moderately less than that of a year earlier, reflecting the indicated 5 percent smaller acreage. Yields per acre are expected to equal those of early-spring 1954. Initial marketings of early-spring onions brought much higher prices to farmers this year than last. Although some downward adjustment is to be expected as shipments expand seasonally, prices received for this crop probably will continue above the level of a year ago. In early 1954, supplies of storage onions were unusually large, contributing to the low prices which prevailed during most of the early-spring onion marketing season.

The indicated acreage of late-spring onions is 7 percent larger than that harvested in 1954, but 12 percent below the 1949-53 average. Growing conditions were generally favorable for this crop until late March, when unusually cold temperatures in Texas may have unfavorably affected yields, in addition to delaying development of the late-spring onion crop there.

The acreage for early-summer onions, which is a relatively small part of the total annual acreage, is expected to be 3 percent smaller than in 1954, a fourth below average. But the prospective acreage of late-summer onions, the most important onion crop of the year in terms of both tonnage and value, is expected to be fully as large as that of last year, although about 10 percent below average. If yields on the prospective acreage are close to those of 1954, prices for the late-summer crop of onions would be about the same as those received for 1954 late-summer onions.

Tomatoes are one of the leading spring and summer commercial fresh market vegetable crops in terms of both tonnage and farm value. In the last two years, for example, the value of the spring and summer tomato crops was highest among the vegetables grown for fresh market sale in these seasons; on a tonnage basis tomatoes were among the four largest.

The spring crop of tomatoes probably will be somewhat smaller this year than last. Indications as of early April point to a 4 percent smaller tonnage of early-spring tomatoes than in 1954, reflecting a comparable decline in acreage. Yields on this acreage are expected to equal those of a year earlier.

Acreage indications for the late-spring crop of tomatoes are not yet available. Unfavorable weather extending into early spring damaged or destroyed plants in late-spring areas. The size of the late-spring crop will thus in large part depend on the early acreage replanted and the late acreage normally planted. Harvesting of this crop in some areas may be up to three weeks later than usual and marketings are likely to overlap those from the early-summer areas in June. Farm prices for fresh market vegetables usually decline rather sharply during periods in which marketings from successive seasons overlap.

Cantaloups--The acreage planted to this crop for spring harvest is estimated to be 7 percent smaller than that of a year earlier. Marketings of the spring-harvested cantaloups may stretch out a little longer in the season this year than last as a result of weather damage in late March, which retarded development of the crop in producing areas in south Texas. The delay in the maturing of the south Texas cantaloup crop is not expected to result in any serious marketing overlap with other areas that harvest melons for spring or early summer sale.

The acreage of cantaloups for the 1955 summer harvest will be published in future reports.

Cabbage supplies are expected to be somewhat smaller this spring than last, and prices received by growers for this vegetable probably will average at least the same. The early-spring crop estimated at 100,400 tons, is 15 percent smaller than last year and 22 percent below the 1949-53 average. This results from the sharply smaller yields per acre than in early-spring 1954, which more than offset the effect on supplies of the 3 percent larger acreage. The smaller crop this early-spring season reflects damage caused by winter drouth and record low temperatures in late March in the southeastern States. This area produces most of the cabbage marketed in early spring.

Small-size cabbage will comprise a larger proportion of the spring crop than last year. Growers are expected to harvest more of the crop this spring since small-size cabbage can be marketed more readily than the large sizes.

The late-spring crop of cabbage may also be smaller than that in 1954. Indicated acreage for harvest is 9 percent smaller this year than last, and yields also may be down some. The unfavorable weather in March destroyed or damaged early plantings in some of the southern States that grow cabbage for harvest in late spring. Replanting of the crop in some of the producing areas will be determined by the availability of cabbage plants. The acreage indicated for the early-summer cabbage crop is below that of a year earlier, but this acreage reduction is expected to be offset in large part by increases in higher-yielding late-summer States.

Lettuce--The early-spring crop of lettuce is expected to be 5 percent smaller this year than last and 8 percent below the 1949-53 average. The smaller crop results almost entirely from reduced yields; indicated acreage for harvest is about 2 percent larger this year than last. Cold weather earlier in the year retarded development of the spring lettuce crop in Arizona and California. This will be reflected in a temporary disturbance in the marketing pattern of the crop some time this spring.

Fall Cabbage Acreage

The prospective acreage of early fall cabbage is 4 percent lower than that harvested a year earlier. This includes acreage that will be sold for processing into sauerkraut. In each of the last 2 years the early-fall crop accounted for about a third of the cabbage grown.

COMMERCIAL VEGETABLES FOR PROCESSING

1955 Tonnage Expected to be Close to 1954 Total

In general commercial canners and freezers largely base their processing operations for the year on their relative stock position at the beginning of the acreage contracting and planting season, and on their demand expectations for the comming marketing year. With stocks of both

canned and frozen vegetables currently below those of a year earlier, prospects are that the crop of processing vegetables grown in 1955, if growing conditions are normal, probably will approximate that of 1954.

For the 1955 processing crop of green peas, planting indications to date are for a 2 percent larger acreage than in 1954. But reduced plantings were indicated, as of April 1, for snap beans (9 percent) and sweet corn (10 percent), and 20 percent fewer acres were contracted for kraut cabbage this year than last. In 1954, "open acreage" accounted for almost 40 percent of the total cabbage for kraut acreage planted. According to preliminary production estimates, the combined 1955 winter and early-spring crops of spinach for processing total 40 percent larger than those of a year earlier.

Canned Vegetable Stocks Moderately Under Year-Earlier Level

Latest available data indicate that combined canners' and wholesale distributors' stocks are smaller than a year earlier for green peas, whole tomatoes, tomato juice and other tomato products, beets, and pumpkin and squash. On the other hand, stocks of canned snap beans, sweet corn, asparagus, and lima beans are larger than a year earlier.

Frozen Vegetable Holdings Currently Below Record Level of a Year Ago

Since last November, stocks of frozen vegetables held in commercial cold storage have been lower than a year earlier, reflecting largely the smaller 1954 pack. The rate of the net outmovement of frozen vegetables from storage through April 1 this year has been somewhat faster than it was during the same period last year. Holdings on April 1 totaled 454.3 million pounds, 11 percent smaller than a year earlier.

Among the important frozen vegetables, smaller quantities of asparagus, broccoli, cauliflower, green peas, pumpkin and squash, and spinach were in storage on April 1 than a year earlier. These declines much more than offset increases reported for lima beans, snap beans, Brussels sprouts, and sweet corn.

POTATOES

Near-future Price Prospects Generally More Favorable than a Year Earlier

Prices received by growers for potatoes are expected to continue above 1954 at least until late spring, when harvestings and shipments to market will be at a peak for the spring season. The early-spring crop is a little smaller this year than last, and marketings will reach a high level about a week or two later this year than usual. Also, the quantity

of late-spring potatoes is expected to be at least as large this year as last, even though unfavorable weather during the latter part of March reduced the size of the crop in a number of producing areas. Overlaps in potato marketings from different growing areas may not be much of a problem until about late spring.

Freezing weather and strong winds in late March severely damaged the potato crop growing in Alabama, and reduced the acreage or retarded the growth of the crop in other late-spring potato areas in southeastern and south central States. But output in the California late-spring area is expected to be much larger this year than last, with the increase likely at least to offset declines in other late-spring potato areas. Preliminary indications point to 70,000 acres of potatoes planted in the late-spring area of California, compared with 57,000 in 1954. Normally, yields in the California area are much larger than those in any of the late-spring potato areas in the southeastern and south central States.

Supplies of potatoes from the spring crop will be seasonally large in June as shipments from California and North Carolina reach a peak, and marketings from the summer potato areas begin to build up in volume. Although the monthly average of farm prices for spring-harvested potatoes is expected to be higher this year than last, prices in the latter part of spring are likely to be lower than earlier in the spring.

Prospective Plantings for Intermediate-and Late-Crop Potatoes Both Close to Year-ago Levels

According to reports from growers on or about March 1, the prospective acreage planted to potatoes in the intermediate- and late-crop areas this year is likely to be almost as large as the corresponding acreages planted in 1954. Farmers in the 29 Late States reported intentions to plant around 1,077,400 acres to potatoes this year. If yields are equal to the 1950-54 average by States, production on this acreage would total 294.3 million bushels. This would be 2 percent larger than the comparable 1954 crop of 287.5 million bushels. A 1955 late crop of potatoes equal to 294.3 million bushels or more could be a little larger than could be readily marketed at prices equal to those received for the comparable 1954 crop, especially if quality is better. The quality of the 1954 late-potato crop in some areas was not as good as that of the 1953 crop.

Prices for 1954 late-crop potatoes averaged much higher this past winter and in early spring than the very low level of a year earlier, and those received for the 1955 spring-harvested potatoes are expected to average higher too. If prices thus far this year encourage growers in the major producing areas in the 29 Late States to plant even a moderately larger acreage than they did last year, and growing conditions are at least normal, production could be enough larger than the 1954 late-crop potatoes to cause marketing problems to develop beginning later this year.

Fewer Late-Crop Potatoes
Diverted to Starch and Flour
this Year than Last

Indications are that the volume of 1954 late-crop potatoes diverted to potato starch and potato flour will be much smaller than a year earlier. In Maine, for example, where the starch and flour operations are heaviest, 5,715 thousand bushels of potatoes were sold through the week ending April 16 for processing into these two products. This is 25 percent less than the tonnage diverted in Maine during the comparable period last year.

About 40 percent of the 1954 late-crop potatoes offered for diversion this year were below the minimum standard on which a Government payment may be made. Last year, for the full program period, substandard potatoes represented only 20 percent of the volume offered. Under the terms of the program, farmers receive 30 cents per hundred pounds for 1954 late-crop potatoes which are diverted to potato starch and flour. Potatoes that are accepted must meet U. S. No. 2 grade and have 2-inch minimum diameter.

SWEETPOTATOES

Intended Acreage Same As
Planted in 1954

Early in March farmers indicated their intentions to plant as many acres to sweetpotatoes this year as last. Actual plantings as indicated and yields per acre, by States, equal to the 1949-53 average, would result in a sweetpotato crop of 33,600,000 bushels in 1955. This would be about an eighth larger than the crop in 1954, when unfavorable growing conditions reduced yields per acre inmany of the southern States, but more than a fourth smaller than the 1944-53 average production of 46,951,000 bushels.

Among the important States in which sweetpotatoes are grown, the "intentions report" points to a larger acreage to be planted in New Jersey, Mississippi, Louisiana, and California this year than last. In 1954 production in these four States represented almost 50 percent of the total U. S. crop. Intentions to plant a smaller acreage were reported by farmers in Maryland, South Carolina, Georgia, and Alabama, but those in Virginia, North Carolina, Tennessee, and Texas planned to use as much acreage for sweetpotatoes as in 1954.

With a larger sweetpotato crop this year than last year's near-record small one, prices received by growers probably would average no higher than for the 1954 crop. On the other hand, there is not likely to be a big surplus of sweetpotatoes during the 1955-56 marketing year which would sharply reduce prices.

Prices Likely to Continue at Near-record Levels During Remainder of 1954-55

In every month since January, prices received by growers for sweetpotatoes have averaged higher than a year earlier, and have been the third highest of record for these months since 1909. With demand likely to continue at the year-ago level and supplies available for distribution smaller than at the same time last year, farm prices for sweetpotatoes are expected to continue higher during the remainder of the marketing period and at near-record levels. After midyear, when supplies from the new crop start coming to market in increasing volume, a seasonal downturn in price is to be expected.

DRY EDIBLE BEANS

Moderate Acreage Increase Intended in 1955

In early March farmers planned to plant a 4 percent greater acreage to dry beans this year than last. This would be the largest since 1949. The principal reasons for the increased acreage are the use of land diverted from allotment crops and the favorable yields harvested in most important producing States in the last 3 years. However, since early March farmers probably have reviewed their planting plans in light of the announcement by the Department of Agriculture on March 11 that the support price for 1955-crop dry beans had been set at a lower level than that for 1954-crop beans.

Among the States that grow dry beans in commercial quantities, only Colorado, Idaho, and Utah reported farmers' intentions to reduce plantings this year. But prospective acreage declines in these three States were more than offset by intended planting increases reported by growers in New York, Michigan, Nebraska, Wyoming, and Washington. Intended acreage in California is about the same as in 1954; the 5 percent decline indicated for lima beans is fully offset by increases in other classes of dry beans.

Larger Crop Indicated

Yields by State equal to the 1949-53 average on the intended planted acreage for 1955 would result in a crop totaling 21.1 million bags (100 pounds, uncleaned basis), more than 10 percent larger than the 1954 crop and well above the average of 17.3 million bags produced during the period 1944-53. Domestic utilization of dry beans in 1955-56 is expected to be close to that of the preceding year. A crop of 21.1 million bags this year will mean surplus supplies of dry beans during the 1955-56 marketing period unless exports are much larger than they were in 1954-55.

Incidentally, this year's reduction from last year's acreage planted to dry beans in Colorado, Idaho, and Utah does not necessarily mean crops in these States will be smaller in 1955 than in 1954. Last year, yields per acre in these States were reduced partly because of unfavorable weather. Depending on the proportion of the dry bean crop in Colorado grown on irrigated land this year and with normal growing

conditions in Idaho, yields close to those in 1953 could more than offset the effect of the indicated planned acreage reduction. In 1954, production in Colorado and Idaho represented more than two-thirds of total production of pinto beans.

Price-support Level for 1955-Crop Dry Beans Below that for 1954 Crop

On March 11 the Department of Agriculture announced the national average support level for 1955-crop dry edible beans at $6.36 per hundredweight. This is 70 percent of the February 15 parity price of $9.08 per hundredweight. The support level of $6.36 is 12 percent lower than the average of $7.24 in effect for U. S. No. 1 dry beans from the 1954 crop.

Price support for 1955-crop dry beans is set at a level aimed to encourage maximum movement of this crop into domestic consumption and export outlets, and at the same time to discourage farmers from excessive overplanting of the 1955 crop. This year, with acreage allotments in effect on cotton, wheat, corn, rice, peanuts and tobacco, farmers may tend to shift additional acreage into dry beans. This was confirmed subsequently by the report on prospective plantings for 1955, available March 18.

The following classes of 1955-crop dry beans will be supported: pinto, at $5.88 to $6.18 per hundredweight, depending on area; great Northern, $6.33 to $6.83; pea and medium white, $6.68 to $7.18; small white and flat small white, $6.76; red kidney, $8.01; pink, $6.81; small red, $6.91; large lima, $9.76; and baby lima, $5.01 per hundredweight. The support prices indicated are for U. S. No. 1 grade dry beans that have been cleaned and bagged, with all charges--except those for receiving and loading out--paid through February 29, 1956 for Michigan, Pennsylvania and New York, and through April 30, 1956 for all other States. The premium payment for U. S. Choice Hand Picked and U. S. Extra No. 1 beans is 10 cents per hundredweight for all classes of beans except pea beans, on which there will be a premium of 25 cents. The discount for U. S. No. 2 beans will be 25 cents per hundredweight. These premiums and discounts are the same as the ones in effect for 1954-crop dry beans.

The support prices for pea beans have been moved up 7 cents per hundredweight in relation to other classes of dry beans. This was done in order to establish a more competitive relationship between great northern and pea beans. No other changes were made in price relationships between various classes of beans.

DRY FIELD PEAS

Prospective Acreage in 1955 Moderately Larger than 1954 Plantings

If farmers carry out plans indicated by their reported intentions in March, the acreage planted to dry field peas in 1955 will be nearly 3 percent larger than that planted last year. But this would still be about 30 percent below the average of plantings during 1944-53.

By States, a larger planted acreage than in 1954 is indicated only for Colorado, Oregon, and Washington. Last year, Washington was the leading producer of dry field peas. Plans to reduce acreage this year were reported for Minnesota, North Dakota, and Idaho. Idaho was the second leading producer of dry peas in 1954.

If the intended acreage is planted and if yields by States equal the 1949-53 average, production in 1955 would total approximately 3,300,000 bags (100 pounds, uncleaned basis). A crop of this size would be about 5 percent smaller than that produced in 1954 and much below the average for 1943-52.

Continued Higher Prices Indicated for 1954-Crop Dry Peas

Prices received by growers for 1954-crop dry peas have been higher than a year earlier and at record levels for each month since last November. Prospects are that farm prices for this crop will continue well above a year earlier at least until about mid-1955. With the movement of 1954-crop dry peas into domestic outlets a little larger than in 1953-54 and the export demand much stronger, the carryover of old-crop dry peas into the 1955-crop marketing year will be small, and consequently is expected to have little--if any--price depressing influence. With domestic utilization in 1955-56 likely to be close to that of a year earlier, however, the level of prices received by growers for 1955-crop dry peas will be greatly influenced by the export demand at that time.

Exports of 1954-crop dry peas through January 1955 totaled almost one million bags (100 pounds, cleaned basis), 3 to 4 times as much as those of a year earlier and probably the largest ever made during a comparable peacetime period in which there was no old-crop carryover or Government assistance involved. Strong export demand was the result of the poor pea crop or the poor quality of peas harvested in producing areas in Western Europe during 1954, which was an unusual situation.

A BRIEF ANALYSIS OF PRODUCTION OF FROZEN VEGETABLES BY MAJOR CONTAINER SIZE, 1944-53 1/

The sharp expansion in the commercial production of frozen vegetables from 1944 to 1953 was accompanied by noteworthy year-to-year shifts in the volume and proportion packed in containers of different sizes (tables 1 and 2). Although the reported production packed in

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1/ The study is based on data published annually by the National Association of Frozen Food Packers in Frozen Food Pack Statistics (Vol. II). A similar study of canned vegetables was made by Herbert W. Mumford, Jr., and presented in the June-August 1953 issue of The Vegetable Situation (TVS-109).

retail and institutional (including bulk) containers 2/ both increased during the 10-year period, the advance for the retail pack was much more pronounced than for the institutional (table 2). Available sta-statistics clearly indicate that the year-to-year increase in production packed in the retail sizes from 1944 to 1951 was more rapid than the year-to-year increase in total commercial production of frozen vegetables.

The Pack in Retail-Size Containers

Production Expands Sharply from 1944 to 1953

In 1944, 103.7 million pounds of commercially frozen vegetables were put up in retail-size packages--almost 44 percent of the total production. From that time through 1951 the volume packed in small containers increased in all but one year (1947), and its proportion to the corresponding total annual frozen vegetable output increased every year (table 3). During 1951 the pack in retail sizes amounted to 527.4 million pounds, 68 percent of total production. The retail pack continued to increase substantially in 1952 and 1953, while its relative proportion to the total pack drifted downward moderately. The production packed in retail containers in 1953 was 697.6 million pounds, representing almost 65 percent of the total commercial pack of frozen vegetables in that year.

Sharp year-to-year increases in the quantities packed in retail-size containers since 1944 reflect the rapid growth in U. S. civilian demand for commercially frozen vegetables to be used in the home. Socio-economic changes in our country during the last two decades are reflected in increased consumer demand for processed foods in general. Other underlying causes for the rapid expansion of frozen vegetables are (1) technological and other advances in the distribution system for frozen foods--particularly at the retail level 3/, (2) the relatively large increase in number of homes which have mechanical refrigeration equipment for food 4/, (3) the increased variety and improved quality of frozen products, (4) convenience in use, and (5) retail prices for frozen foods competitive with fresh and canned vegetable prices.

2/ Retail-size containers are packages that hold a pound or less of frozen vegetables; institutional (including bulk) containers hold more than a pound net weight.

3/ Mainly the development and use of the self-service open type frozen food display cabinet.

4/ The Statistical Abstract of the United States, 1954 (table 959) reports that 15,093 thousand dwelling units had mechanical refrigeration equipment in 1940. In 1950, the number of dwelling units having this type of equipment totaled 33,720 thousand.

Shift to Smaller Packages Occurs Within Retail-Size Container Group

Not only has there been a strong tendency since 1944 for an increasing proportion of the annual frozen vegetable output to be packed in retail-size containers, but even within this group there has been a definite upward trend toward the use of smaller packages (table 4). In 1944, almost 56 percent of the retail pack was in 12-ounce containers--about 18 percent in the 10-ounce packages and 26 percent in all other retail sizes. Since 1944 the proportion of the retail pack put up in 10-ounce packages has increased sharply, especially since 1947, and in 1953 it accounted for 75 percent of the total output packaged in retail-size containers.

The gain in relative importance of the pack in 10-ounce containers for the most part has been at the expense of the 12-ounce unit, especially since 1948. The trend in the proportion of the annual retail pack put up in sizes other than the 10- and 12-ounce packages has been generally level.

Within the retail-size container group for commercially frozen vegetables, the shift to the 10-ounce package has several implications. The smaller retail package can be priced at a level more competitive with those of the corresponding fresh or canned vegetables. Also, the smaller retail-size containers of frozen vegetables apparently are popular since "left overs" can be kept to a minimum. They are also popular among small families and attractive to consumers who wish to serve more than one vegetable at a meal.

The Pack in Institutional and Bulk Containers

Volume Packed Trends Up Since 1944, But Declines Relative to Total Output

Even though volume of commercially frozen vegetables packed in institutional and bulk containers increased in most of the years from 1944 to 1953, in relative importance to total production it has trended downward (tables 2 and 3). This reflects the more rapid expansion of demand for frozen vegetables packed in retail-size containers.

In 1944 the institutional and bulk pack totaled 133.4 million pounds, more than 56 percent of the entire production of frozen vegetables. By 1953, around 378.9 million pounds were packed in the institutional and bulk sizes, but this represented only a little more than 35 percent of the total volume of frozen vegetables produced commercially in that year.

Among Institutional and Bulk Sizes, Proportion Packed in Large Units Trends Up

Although the volume of frozen vegetables packed in small institutional-size containers 5/ since 1944 has continued to exceed that of the large institutional and bulk units 5/, the proportion of the total institutional and bulk pack put up in the smaller sizes has trended generally downward. In 1944 the pack in small institutional units amounted to 88.5 million pounds, 66 percent of the total volume put up in institutional and bulk sizes. It increased in almost every subsequent year--1947 and 1948 were the exceptions--and by 1953 totaled 208.0 million pounds, equivalent to almost 55 percent of the entire institutional and bulk pack in that year. During this 10-year period the pack in large institutional and bulk containers increased about 280 percent, from 44.9 million pounds in 1944 to 170.9 million in 1953.

Shift Occurs Within Both Major Groups of Institutional and Bulk Containers

Data on commercial production of frozen vegetables by container size reveal shifts within both the small institutional and the large institutional-bulk groups (table 4). As between these two groups, the internal shifts in the container size used has been in different directions. The trend of production within the small institutional-size group since 1946 has shifted away from the 4- and 5-pound packages mainly to the 2-1/2-pound container. This was true both in terms of volume packed and in relative importance to the total for the group. But among large institutional and bulk sizes, output since 1949 has tended to shift away--also both on an absolute and relative basis--from the 30-pound unit both to the 50-pound unit and the miscellaneous group of large institutional-bulk containers.

The internal shifts since 1944 in the proportion packed in the various container-sizes comprising the small institutional- and the large institutional-bulk container groups, apparently occurred for different reasons. For the small institutional-size container group, the relative increase in the pack of the 2-1/2-pound unit probably is related to two factors: (1) Increased sales to families that own frozen-food cabinets; (2) increasing numbers of public eating places and institutions that use frozen vegetables and find this size convenient to use despite the relative price advantage of the larger size containers.

5/ Small institutional-size containers are those which hold a net weight ranging from more than 1 pound to not more than 10 pounds. Large institutional and bulk containers include those which hold more than 10 pounds, net weight.

Reasons why these establishments prefer the 2-1/2-pound pack are:

(1) Quantity control. The quantity of frozen vegetables prepared for serving at mealtime can be better controlled to coincide with actual orders for vegetables.

(2) Quality control. Many prepared frozen vegetables apparently do not keep as well on the steam table from which the prepared food is served, as do those prepared from the fresh or canned product. By preparing frozen vegetables in small batches during the meal hour, it is easier to maintain control of the quality of the prepared frozen vegetable to be served.

(3) Space control. When the wholesaler makes deliveries frequently, use of the 2-1/2-pound package of frozen vegetables requires less freezer-storage cabinet space in the kitchen.

Within the large institutional-bulk container group of frozen vegetables, the shift away from the 30-pound package, especially since 1948, is related to developments in the food processing industry. With the rapid increase in the production of commercially prepared soups and ready-to-eat meals, processors of these products have increased their use of frozen vegetables as a raw material. Also, frozen vegetables are purchased in bulk containers by some processors and used for vegetable mixtures for subsequent sale. Frozen vegetables packed in the very large containers apparently are more convenient and economical to use in commercial food processing operations.

Selected Frozen Vegetables: Production by Container Size

An analysis of annual output of six 6/ important frozen vegetables from 1944 to 1953 reveals the following similarities and differences in the pattern of production by container size among the individual items and the total for all commercially frozen vegetables:

1. Production of each of the six vegetables and the total of all vegetables increased sharply during the 10-year period. Increases for broccoli and cut corn were most pronounced.

2. Cut corn was the only one among selected frozen vegetables for which the annual pack in retail-size containers was smaller than that in institutional and bulk containers in almost every year.

6/ Green and wax beans, lima beans, broccoli, cut corn, green peas, and spinach.

3. As for frozen vegetables in general, the smaller retail sizes have also been the most popular for the six important items during the last few years. Spinach was the only vegetable for which the 14-ounce container was the leading retail-size packed. For the five other items, the 10-ounce container predominated.

4. Among the institutional and bulk containers, for broccoli and spinach the trend has been for a larger proportion to be packed in the small institutional sizes, with the reverse situation evident for cut corn and green peas. The analysis revealed no clear-cut trend toward either small institutional sizes or large institutional and bulk containers for green and wax beans, or for lima beans.

5. For commercially frozen vegetables packed in the small institutional containers, the proportion packed in 4- and 5-pound packages during the last few years has tended downward. The shift away from these units has been toward the 2-1/2-pound container for green and wax beans, lima beans, cut corn, and green peas. The trend in the relative importance of the pack of both broccoli and spinach in small institutional-size containers has been toward sizes other than the 2-1/2, 4-, and 5-pound packages.

6. The trend in the proportion packed in the various large institutional and bulk containers has tended to vary among the six important frozen vegetables. For green and wax beans, and for green peas the proportion of the "large institutional and bulk pack" put up in 30-pound containers has tended to decline, while that in 50-pound units has increased. The proportion of cut corn packed in 30-pound containers has also moved downward, but that packed in the 50-pound and the other large institutional and bulk units has fluctuated from year-to-year. For lima beans, an analysis of the relative pack in 30-pound containers reveals no clear-cut trend, while those of the 50-pound and other large institutional and bulk units have been upward. Trends by container size within the large institutional and bulk container-size group cannot be determined for broccoli and spinach because of the lack of data.

Table 1.- Frozen vegetables: Commercial production, total and by major container sizes, United States, 1944-53

Year	Total production	Retail-size containers 1/				Institutional and bulk containers 2/								
							Small sizes 3/				Large sizes 4/			
		Total	10 ounces	12 ounces	Other	Total	Total	2½ pounds	4 and 5 pounds	Other	Total	30 pounds	50 pounds	Other
	1,000 lb.	1,000 lb.	1,000 lb.	1,000 lb.	1,000 lb.	1,000 lb.	1,000 lb.	1,000 lb.	1,000 lb.	1,000 lb.	1,000 lb.	1,000 lb.	1,000 lb.	1,000 lb.
a. Total frozen vegetables														
1944	237,092	103,677	19,138	57,988	26,551	133,415	88,547	45,736	31,113	11,698	44,868	13,271	12,799	18,798
1945	307,977	137,189	22,616	82,343	32,230	170,788	120,249	60,459	37,858	21,932	50,539	15,477	15,285	19,777
1946	450,000	253,993	59,972	148,199	45,822	196,007	124,737	57,269	39,775	27,693	71,270	16,735	26,065	28,470
1947	346,208	200,383	38,673	136,642	25,068	145,825	92,110	46,268	24,476	21,366	53,715	12,230	17,952	23,533
1948	446,358	284,525	79,679	156,771	48,075	161,833	83,863	52,778	12,758	18,327	77,970	23,479	33,083	21,408
1949	563,499	363,608	129,032	153,840	80,736	199,891	109,474	60,580	20,017	28,877	90,417	24,343	34,065	32,009
1950	587,101	389,615	146,776	176,031	66,808	197,486	120,731	68,831	23,097	28,803	76,755	15,299	32,407	29,049
1951	770,038	527,437	241,815	170,323	115,299	242,601	147,996	86,379	27,499	34,118	94,605	17,819	39,923	36,863
1952	895,719	595,035	360,140	91,669	143,226	300,684	177,718	111,058	21,323	45,337	122,966	11,262	57,156	54,548
1953	1,076,578	697,640	523,623	41,247	132,770	378,938	208,033	135,137	9,108	63,788	170,905	17,488	82,228	71,189
b. Green and wax beans														
1944	23,753	10,967	10,813	---	154	12,786	10,050	4,568	3,344	2,138	2,736	1,399	---	1,337
1945	31,460	11,338	11,192	---	146	20,122	15,864	6,978	7,394	1,492	4,258	511	83	3,664
1946	40,975	22,825	22,591	---	234	18,150	13,784	6,599	1,878	5,307	4,366	1,162	159	3,045
1947	30,911	16,705	15,245	---	1,460	14,206	9,577	4,327	1,146	4,104	4,629	460	1,425	2,744
1948	49,583	30,108	30,108	---	---	19,475	13,231	8,986	1,186	3,059	6,244	1,397	2,710	2,137
1949	58,523	37,353	37,311	---	42	21,170	13,573	7,663	1,568	4,342	7,597	1,041	2,590	3,966
1950	65,529	43,416	43,209	---	207	22,113	17,719	9,959	2,137	5,623	4,394	500	1,551	2,343
1951	81,651	56,328	56,285	---	43	25,323	20,146	13,007	1,838	5,301	5,177	911	2,623	1,643
1952	87,438	59,166	54,872	---	4,294	28,272	19,958	13,709	1,929	4,320	8,314	404	5,063	2,847
1953	114,781	73,905	66,370	---	7,535	40,876	27,535	18,242	695	8,598	13,341	789	8,852	3,700
c. Lima beans														
1944	29,550	9,969	---	9,969	---	19,581	9,366	6,625	2,566	175	10,215	371	4,014	5,830
1945	28,476	10,543	---	10,374	169	17,933	10,967	6,262	1,770	2,935	6,966	951	3,342	2,673
1946	50,083	23,593	---	22,253	1,340	26,490	12,737	5,951	2,116	4,670	13,753	409	10,295	3,049
1947	68,194	38,993	---	38,993	---	29,201	15,364	6,333	3,058	5,973	13,837	3,045	5,533	5,259
1948	75,403	46,062	---	45,564	498	29,341	13,741	11,268	2,153	320	15,600	4,416	7,638	3,546
1949	87,949	46,923	2,338	44,585	---	41,026	14,967	11,222	2,292	1,453	26,059	6,616	13,830	5,613
1950	85,988	54,081	14,590	39,491	---	31,907	19,128	14,261	4,819	48	12,779	548	7,010	5,221
1951	108,020	71,541	42,333	29,208	---	36,479	17,309	14,567	2,512	230	19,170	4,233	6,080	8,857
1952	113,926	74,426	52,780	5/21,646	---	39,500	22,657	19,620	2,505	532	16,843	1,001	6,278	9,564
1953	138,595	83,458	82,299	5/1,159	---	55,137	32,220	26,830	932	4,458	22,917	2,604	10,880	9,433
d. Cut corn														
1944	20,983	6,526	4,073	2,453	---	14,457	12,121	8,327	3,794	---	2,336	1,528	492	316
1945	25,551	10,655	2,277	8,378	---	14,896	11,648	7,283	3,964	401	3,248	684	1,280	1,284
1946	42,427	21,504	9,328	12,176	---	20,923	12,454	6,717	5,327	410	8,469	2,071	3,169	3,229
1947	26,559	8,637	---	---	8,637	17,922	10,220	4,451	5,336	433	7,702	2,158	2,251	3,293
1948	20,920	7,906	---	---	7,906	13,014	3,185	2,189	980	16	9,829	1,729	5,440	2,660
1949	37,076	13,396	---	---	13,396	23,680	8,077	5,583	2,494	---	15,603	3,751	5,571	6,281
1950	32,998	13,742	11,142	---	2,600	19,256	7,303	4,039	2,834	430	11,953	909	4,690	6,354
1951	44,549	16,825	14,210	---	2,615	27,724	10,123	5,271	4,852	---	17,601	2,389	9,045	6,167
1952	62,684	24,446	21,657	---	2,789	38,238	14,361	11,601	2,760	---	23,877	1,843	6,360	15,674
1953	104,809	44,601	33,613	---	10,988	60,208	23,227	20,554	1,278	1,395	36,981	2,634	19,084	15,263

Continued -

Table 1.- Frozen vegetables: Commercial production, total and by major container sizes, United States, 1944-53 - Continued

e. Green peas

Year	Total production	Retail-size containers 1/				Institutional and bulk containers 2/								
							Small sizes 3/				Large sizes 4/			
		Total	10 ounces	12 ounces	Other	Total	Total	2½ pounds	4 and 5 pounds	Other	Total	30 pounds	50 pounds	Other
	1,000 lb.	1,000 lb.	1,000 lb.	1,000 lb.	1,000 lb.	1,000 lb.	1,000 lb.	1,000 lb.	1,000 lb.	1,000 lb.	1,000 lb.	1,000 lb.	1,000 lb.	1,000 lb.
1944	79,152	32,739	---	32,571	168	46,413	27,632	10,504	16,915	213	18,781	5,055	7,135	6,591
1945	103,834	39,245	---	39,245	---	64,589	40,816	21,312	19,104	400	23,773	7,454	9,546	6,773
1946	140,603	72,011	---	72,011	6/	68,592	41,340	19,949	20,873	518	27,252	6,628	9,732	10,892
1947	131,786	75,221	---	73,711	1,510	56,565	33,220	19,848	13,342	30	23,345	4,396	8,032	10,917
1948	118,977	71,738	---	71,564	174	47,239	19,067	13,265	5,513	289	28,172	12,950	10,571	4,651
1949	113,273	64,593	---	64,158	435	48,680	23,314	15,211	8,051	52	25,366	9,581	9,709	6,076
1950	152,275	90,321	723	89,598	---	61,954	32,306	23,310	8,716	280	29,648	10,148	13,876	5,624
1951	195,541	120,031	17,901	101,445	685	75,510	38,831	27,060	11,372	399	36,679	7,928	16,532	12,219
1952	203,726	115,607	74,111	41,203	293	88,119	42,115	33,334	7,153	1,628	46,004	5,271	22,343	18,390
1953	222,543	119,639	115,702	3,912	25	102,904	38,740	35,667	1,868	1,205	64,164	7,004	29,043	28,117

f. Broccoli

1944	6,840	3,581	1,114	---	2,467	3,259	3,243	539	1,199	1,505	16	---	---	---
1945	11,656	7,163	3,573	---	3,590	4,493	4,479	541	1,071	2,867	14	---	---	---
1946	25,789	15,553	10,609	---	4,944	10,236	10,231	1,324	2,846	6,061	5	---	---	---
1947	9,117	6,188	---	---	---	2,929	2,925	651	---	2,274	4	---	---	---
1948	29,126	20,703	---	---	---	8,423	8,423	1,237	---	7,186	---	---	---	---
1949	45,233	33,555	---	---	---	11,678	11,668	1,873	1,876	7,919	10	---	---	---
1950	41,028	30,461	30,377	---	84	10,567	10,562	255	833	9,474	5	---	---	---
1951	48,768	39,218	39,218	---	---	9,550	9,375	319	1,602	7,454	175	---	---	---
1952	82,253	62,718	62,124	---	594	19,535	19,503	3,286	1,551	14,666	32	---	---	---
1953	89,043	71,911	69,829	---	2,082	17,132	17,107	1,580	977	14,550	25	---	---	---

g. Spinach

	Total production	Retail-size containers 1/			Institutional and bulk containers 2/					
						Small sizes 3/				Large sizes, miscellaneous
		Total	14 Ounces	Other	Total	Total	2½ pounds	4 and 5 pounds	Other	
	1,000 lb.	1,000 lb.	1,000 lb.	1,000 lb.	1,000 lb.	1,000 lb.	1,000 lb.	1,000 lb.	1,000 lb.	1,000 lb.
1944	31,947	17,376	15,999	1,377	14,571	14,291	9,695	1,711	2,885	280
1945	36,721	21,293	19,898	1,395	15,428	15,410	6,011	1,490	7,909	18
1946	38,185	27,948	23,784	4,164	10,237	10,189	5,878	763	3,548	48
1947	23,279	16,781	15,869	912	6,498	6,498	5,677	279	542	---
1948	41,571	31,680	30,635	1,045	9,891	9,891	8,422	320	1,149	---
1949	62,307	48,682	46,224	2,458	13,625	13,608	8,398	469	4,741	17
1950	52,806	41,317	39,865	1,452	11,489	11,465	5,609	962	4,894	24
1951	97,878	75,983	74,014	1,969	21,895	21,866	9,868	1,163	10,835	29
1952	91,464	72,674	69,143	3,531	18,790	18,780	9,131	401	9,248	10
1953	87,927	63,896	24,026	39,870	24,031	24,020	7,331	1,077	15,612	11

1/ Net weight content of one pound or less.
2/ Net weight content over one pound.
3/ Net weight content of more than one pound and up to ten pounds.
4/ Net weight content of more than ten pounds.
5/ Includes small volume in "other" retail sizes.
6/ Less than 500 pounds.

Frozen Food Pack Statistics, Vol. II, annual reports of the National Association of Frozen Food Packers.

Table 2.- Frozen vegetables: Index of production, total and by major container sizes, United States, 1944-53

(1944=100)

Year	Total production	Retail-size containers 1/	Institutional-bulk containers 2/		
			Total	Small sizes 3/	Large sizes 4/
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
1944	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
1945	129.9	132.3	128.0	135.8	112.6
1946	189.8	245.0	146.9	140.9	158.8
1947	146.0	193.3	109.3	104.0	119.7
1948	188.3	274.4	121.3	94.7	173.8
1949	237.7	350.7	149.8	123.6	201.5
1950	247.6	375.8	148.0	136.3	171.1
1951	324.8	508.7	181.8	167.1	210.9
1952	377.8	573.9	225.4	200.7	274.1
1953	454.1	672.9	284.0	234.9	380.9

1/ Net weight content of 1 pound or less. 2/ Net weight content over 1 pound. 3/ Net weight content of more than 1 pound and up to 10 pounds. 4/ Net weight content of more than 10 pounds.

Table 3.- Frozen vegetables: Production, total and by major container size groups, United States, 1944-53

(Percentage of annual total)

Year	Total production	Retail-size containers 1/	Institutional-bulk containers 2/		
			Total	Small sizes 3/	Large sizes 4/
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
1944	100.0	43.7	56.3	37.4	18.9
1945	100.0	44.5	55.5	39.1	16.4
1946	100.0	56.5	43.5	27.7	15.8
1947	100.0	57.9	42.1	26.6	15.5
1948	100.0	63.7	36.3	18.8	17.5
1949	100.0	64.5	35.5	19.5	16.0
1950	100.0	66.4	33.6	20.5	13.1
1951	100.0	68.5	31.5	19.2	12.3
1952	100.0	66.4	33.6	19.9	13.7
1953	100.0	64.8	35.2	19.4	15.8

1/ Net weight content of 1 pound or less. 2/ Net weight content over 1 pound. 3/ Net weight content of more than 1 pound and up to 10 pounds. 4/ Net weight content of more than 10 pounds.

Table 4.- Frozen vegetables: Production, by major container sizes, United States, 1944-53

(Percentage of annual total of each major container group)

Year	Retail-size containers 1/				Institutional and bulk containers 2/							
					Small sizes 3/				Large sizes 4/			
	Total	10 ounce	12 ounce	Other	Total	$2\frac{1}{2}$ pounds	4 and 5 pounds	Other	Total	30 pounds	50 pounds	Other
	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.
1944	100.0	18.5	55.9	25.6	100.0	51.7	35.1	13.2	100.0	29.6	28.5	41.9
1945	100.0	16.5	60.0	23.5	100.0	50.3	31.5	18.2	100.0	30.6	30.3	39.1
1946	100.0	23.6	58.4	18.0	100.0	45.9	31.9	22.2	100.0	23.5	36.6	39.9
1947	100.0	19.3	68.2	12.5	100.0	50.2	26.6	23.2	100.0	22.8	33.4	43.8
1948	100.0	28.0	55.1	16.9	100.0	62.9	15.2	21.9	100.0	30.1	42.4	27.5
1949	100.0	35.5	42.3	22.2	100.0	55.3	18.3	26.4	100.0	26.9	37.7	35.4
1950	100.0	37.7	45.2	17.1	100.0	57.0	19.1	23.9	100.0	19.9	42.2	37.9
1951	100.0	45.8	32.3	21.9	100.0	58.4	18.5	23.1	100.0	18.8	42.2	39.0
1952	100.0	60.5	15.4	24.1	100.0	62.5	12.0	25.5	100.0	9.1	46.5	44.4
1953	100.0	75.1	5.9	19.0	100.0	64.9	4.4	30.7	100.0	10.2	48.1	41.7

1/ Net weight content of 1 pound or less.

2/ Net weight content over 1 pound.

3/ Net weight content of more than 1 pound and up to 10 pounds.

4/ Net weight content of more than 10 pounds.

Table 5 .- Vegetables for fresh market: Reported commercial acreage and production, average 1949-53, annual 1954 and indicated 1955

Seasonal group and crop	Acreage: 5-year average 1949-53 2/	Acreage: 1954	Acreage: Indicated 1955: Acres	Acreage: Indicated 1955: Percent of average	Acreage: Indicated 1955: Percent of 1954	Production (equivalent tons) 1/: 5-year average 1949-53 2/	Production: 1954	Production: Indicated 1955: Production	Production: Indicated 1955: Percent of average	Production: Indicated 1955: Percent of 1954
	Acres	Acres	Acres	Pct.	Pct.	1,000 tons	1,000 tons	1,000 tons	Pct.	Pct.
WINTER 3/	276,700	271,840	263,360	95	97	1,474,200	1,557,200	1,461,000	99	94
Spring										
Asparagus, early and mid 3/	81,210	83,880	88,390	109	105	98,200	94,600	99,700	102	105
Asparagus, late 3/	49,850	59,820	62,400	125	104	---	---	---	---	---
Beans, lima	5,780	4,500	4,100	71	91	---	---	---	---	---
Beans, snap, early and mid	43,740	36,500	35,800	82	98	54,000	51,300	40,600	75	79
Beets	1,140	1,060	1,060	93	100	5,900	5,600	4,600	78	82
Broccoli 3/ 4/	9,260	10,900	12,200	132	112	27,000	34,300	35,900	133	105
Cabbage, early 3/	20,940	19,800	20,400	97	103	129,400	117,500	100,400	78	85
Cabbage, late 3/	11,050	10,850	9,850	89	91	---	---	---	---	---
Cantaloups	31,580	54,500	50,600	160	93	---	---	---	---	---
Carrots	3,040	2,300	3,500	115	152	33,000	20,700	30,600	93	148
Cauliflower 4/	7,330	6,500	6,200	85	95	58,600	53,500	50,500	86	94
Celery	6,220	7,600	6,500	105	86	163,300	202,600	179,900	110	89
Corn, sweet 4/	31,880	37,100	31,400	98	85	92,900	107,900	99,000	107	92
Cucumbers 4/	11,100	13,300	8,700	78	65	39,900	51,400	32,200	81	63
Eggplant	1,300	1,000	1,000	77	100	7,100	6,400	6,600	93	103
Lettuce 4/	47,990	44,300	45,200	94	102	256,000	247,500	236,200	92	95
Onions, early	34,740	39,500	37,600	108	95	92,200	108,600	103,400	112	95
Onions, late	17,870	14,800	15,800	88	107	---	---	---	---	---
Peas, green 4/	8,360	7,800	5,100	61	65	14,000	10,200	8,200	59	80
Peppers, green	7,800	8,900	8,500	109	96	24,800	25,600	25,500	103	100
Shallots	1,980	1,900	2,100	106	111	2,800	2,600	3,000	107	115
Spinach	11,970	9,950	10,400	87	105	38,100	32,200	33,800	89	105
Tomatoes 4/	55,720	63,500	60,800	109	96	179,900	194,500	186,600	104	96
Watermelons	77,980	106,800	97,200	125	91	---	---	---	---	---
Total spring to date:										
Acreage and prod.	385,720	395,790	384,850	100	97	1,317,100	1,367,000	1,276,700	97	93
Acreage	579,830	647,060	624,800	108	97	---	---	---	---	---
TOTAL SPRING 5/	682,940	755,610	---	---	---	2,336,900	2,640,600	---	---	---
Early summer:										
Cabbage 3/	9,550	9,700	8,880	93	92	---	---	---	---	---
Onions	5,610	4,340	4,190	75	97	---	---	---	---	---
Watermelons	285,600	324,900	357,100	125	110	---	---	---	---	---
Late summer:										
Cabbage 3/	22,630	22,550	23,150	102	103	---	---	---	---	---
Onions	63,670	57,080	57,500	90	101	---	---	---	---	---
Watermelons	17,770	21,650	22,800	128	105	---	---	---	---	---
Total summer to date 3/										
Acreage	404,830	440,220	473,620	117	108	---	---	---	---	---
TOTAL SUMMER	924,290	961,140	---	---	---	4,180,100	4,269,900	---	---	---
Early fall:										
Cabbage 3/	50,080	45,560	43,650	87	96	---	---	---	---	---
TOTAL FALL 3/	306,910	288,180	---	---	---	2,004,400	2,017,600	---	---	---
	Reported to date in 1955 with comparisons 5/									
Acreage and production	662,420	667,630	648,210	98	97	2,791,300	2,924,200	2,737,800	98	94
Acreage	1,311,440	1,404,680	1,405,430	107	100	---	---	---	---	---
	Totals for past seasons 5/									
ANNUAL TOTAL	2,190,840	2,276,770	---	---	---	9,996,000	10,485,300	---	---	---

1/ Equivalent tons based on approximate net weight of unit used in estimating yield and production.
2/ Group averages (including Annual Total) are simple averages of annual data for the group.
3/ Includes quantities for processing.
4/ Acreage and production for early spring only.
5/ Includes asparagus, broccoli and cabbage for fresh market and processing.

Table 6.- Truck crops, potatoes and sweetpotatoes: Unloads at 19 markets, indicated periods in 1954-55, with comparisons

(Expressed in carlot equivalents)

Commodity	1954 January				1954 November				1954 December				1955 January			
	Rail, boat, and air	Truck	Imports	Total	Rail, boat, and air	Truck	Imports	Total	Rail, boat, and air	Truck	Imports	Total	Rail, boat, and air	Truck	Imports	Total
Asparagus	---	---	---	---	---	8	---	8	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
Beans, lima, snap and fava	226	453	28	707	127	830	16	973	294	487	---	781	120	373	28	521
Beets	17	54	---	71	---	134	---	134	12	63	---	75	10	54	---	64
Broccoli	296	111	---	407	108	123	---	231	199	103	---	302	114	128	---	242
Brussels sprouts	70	38	---	108	112	99	---	211	135	82	---	217	93	31	---	124
Cabbage	816	1,423	---	2,239	129	1,868	---	1,997	537	1,380	---	1,917	820	1,241	---	2,061
Cantaloups and other melons 1/	---	---	48	48	214	69	32	315	8	2	44	54	---	---	16	16
Carrots	956	622	1	1,579	818	685	1	1,504	853	709	1	1,563	824	644	---	1,468
Cauliflower	435	455	---	890	110	859	---	969	418	472	---	890	611	401	---	1,012
Celery	1,358	1,261	---	2,619	1,559	1,343	---	2,902	1,859	1,139	---	2,998	1,409	1,275	---	2,684
Corn	56	98	---	154	317	342	---	659	154	211	---	365	69	117	---	186
Cucumbers	33	286	149	468	165	787	---	952	137	484	13	634	45	408	105	558
Escarole and endive	127	169	---	296	76	259	---	335	107	162	---	269	107	179	10	296
Lettuce and romaine	2,286	1,496	---	3,782	3,024	2,130	---	5,154	3,008	1,717	---	4,725	2,595	1,692	---	4,287
Onions, dry	858	1,223	3	2,084	910	1,393	5	2,308	851	1,195	6	2,052	1,116	1,227	19	2,362
Onions, green 2/	58	182	---	240	20	139	---	159	---	128	---	128	---	124	---	124
Peas, green	13	21	28	62	59	15	---	74	50	14	12	76	11	28	47	86
Peppers	107	201	145	453	440	444	7	891	444	346	17	807	329	358	102	789
Spinach	207	230	---	437	25	316	---	341	185	221	---	406	226	210	---	436
Other cooking greens	115	636	---	751	39	525	---	564	57	585	5	647	98	632	2	732
Squash	12	344	5	361	9	687	6	702	43	406	7	456	18	328	7	353
Tomatoes	767	1,061	592	2,420	1,618	1,798	26	3,442	948	1,978	152	3,078	835	1,343	410	2,588
Turnips and rutabagas	75	233	201	509	35	216	345	596	95	271	166	532	22	272	228	522
Watermelons	---	14	8	22	---	5	---	5	---	---	3	3	---	---	8	8
Other vegetables (including mixed)	1,364	798	69	2,231	523	1,299	120	1,942	1,623	1,071	44	2,738	1,426	1,023	90	2,539
Total above	10,252	11,409	1,277	22,938	10,437	16,373	558	27,368	12,017	13,226	470	25,713	10,898	12,088	1,072	24,058
Potatoes	6,742	3,099	53	9,894	5,542	4,294	---	9,836	5,722	4,103	42	9,867	6,749	3,756	47	10,552
Sweetpotatoes	91	944	---	1,035	168	1,861	---	2,029	114	1,405	19	1,538	70	1,073	15	1,158
Grand total	17,085	15,452	1,330	33,867	16,147	22,528	558	39,233	17,853	18,734	531	37,118	17,717	16,917	1,134	35,768

1/ Except watermelons.
2/ Includes shallots, chives cipolinas, leeks, scallions, and green onions.

Markets include: Atlanta, Baltimore, Boston, Chicago, Cleveland, Dallas and Fort Worth, Denver, Detroit, Kansas City (Missouri), Los Angeles, New Orleans, New York, Oakland (California), Portland (Oregon), Philadelphia, St. Louis, San Francisco, Seattle, and Washington, D. C.

Table 7 .- Vegetables, fresh: Representative prices (l.c.l. sales) at New York and Chicago for stock of generally good quality and condition (U.S. No. 1 when available), indicated periods, 1955, with comparisons

Market, commodity and State of origin	Unit	Tuesday nearest mid-month					
		1954		1955			
		Mar. 16	Apr. 13	Jan. 18	Feb. 15	Mar. 15	Apr. 12
		Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.
New York							
Beans, snap, green, Florida	Bushel	5.46	4.50	4.39	4.75	4.23	3.50
Beets, bunched, Texas	1/2 WGA crate	3.50	2.96	3.16	2.82	3.03	3.06
Broccoli, California	14's, small crate	4.70	4.49	---	4.00	3.75	3.21
Cabbage, Domestic Round type, Florida	1-3/4 bushel Crate	2.25	2.06	2.63	2.32	2.31	3.12
Cabbage, Danish type, New York	50-lb. sack	.78	---	.93	1.55	1.75	---
Carrots, bunched, California	WGA crate	5.40	5.91	7.00	5.36	6.50	5.75
Carrots, topped, New York	Bushel	1.50	---	1.50	1.75	1.57	---
Cauliflower, Texas	Double-deck crate	---	---	3.50	4.75	---	---
Celery, Golden Heart, Florida	16-inch crate	4.18	2.56	4.62	6.38	---	4.00
Celery, Pascal, California	16-inch crate	4.20	4.75	4.87	5.82	5.00	5.00
Cucumbers, Florida	Bushel	12.50	6.66	5.50	7.25	---	9.10
Eggplant, Florida	Bushel	2.73	2.76	2.25	4.75	3.50	2.25
Escarole, Florida	1-1/9 bu. crate	1.60	1.91	1.87	2.00	1.56	1.68
Lettuce, Iceburg type, California	2-dozen carton	3.05	---	4.17	3.75	3.37	---
Onions, Sweet Spanish, Idaho, large size	50-lb. sack	1.65	1.83	2.65	2.67	2.62	4.50
Onions, yellow, New York, medium size	50-lb. sack	.84	.97	1.86	1.63	1.37	1.63
Peppers, green, Florida	Bushel	3.38	6.17	2.76	5.00	4.00	5.25
Spinach, Savoy type, Texas	Bushel	2.90	---	2.62	2.53	1.71	---
Tomatoes, Florida	6x6, 60-lb. crt.	10.65	10.53	7.99	8.25	6.71	5.56
Chicago							
Beans, snap, green, Valentine, Florida	Bushel	5.25	5.00	6.00	5.25	4.75	5.25
Beets, bunched, Texas	1/2 WGA crate	2.75	2.75	2.85	2.40	2.85	2.75
Broccoli, California	14's, small crate	---	---	---	3.35	3.35	3.10
Cabbage, Danish type, Wisconsin	50-lb. sack	---	---	1.55	---	---	---
Carrots, bunched, California	WGA crate	4.90	5.00	---	5.20	5.00	4.90
Carrots, topped, Illinois	50-lb. sack	.75	.75	1.00	1.00	1.50	1.75
Celery, Golden Heart, Florida	16-inch crate	5.75	4.15	4.90	6.00	5.00	4.50
Celery, Pascal, California	16-inch crate	4.00	3.75	4.25	5.25	5.15	5.25
Cucumbers, Florida	Bushel	13.00	9.25	6.00	8.25	10.00	8.50
Eggplant, Florida	Bushel	3.10	2.85	2.85	---	4.12	2.00
Lettuce, Iceberg type, California	WGA crate, 2 dozen heads	2.00	---	3.90	3.60	3.00	3.70
Onions, Sweet Spanish, Idaho	50-lb. sack	1.37	1.50	2.37	2.30	2.45	3.50
Onions, yellow, Globe, Midwestern	50-lb. sack	.55	.70	1.60	1.25	1.25	1.25
Peppers, green, Florida	Bushel	3.75	6.00	3.10	6.00	4.25	4.75
Spinach, flat type, Texas	Bushel	2.50	---	2.50	2.35	1.75	---

Table 8.- Average prices received by farmers, United States, for fresh vegetables March 15, 1955, with comparisons

Commodity	Unit	1954 Feb. 15	1954 Mar. 15	1955 Jan. 15	1955 Feb. 15	1955 Mar. 15
		Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.
Beans, snap	Bushel	2.75	3.05	3.85	3.00	2.35
Broccoli	Crate	2.75	3.10	4.40	4.40	4.25
Cabbage	Ton	20.80	34.90	44.40	44.80	31.70
Carrots	Bushel	1.35	1.25	2.15	1.45	1.35
Cauliflower	Crate	1.15	1.05	1.55	1.70	1.85
Celery	Crate	2.20	2.05	2.40	2.90	3.00
Corn, sweet	5 dozen ears	2.55	2.25	3.00	2.80	2.85
Cucumbers	Bushel	5.50	7.50	4.35	3.50	7.00
Lettuce	Crate	2.20	2.75	4.25	3.80	4.00
Onions	Sack	.48	.45	1.10	.95	.95
Peppers, green	Bushel	3.35	2.00	1.60	2.90	2.80
Spinach	Bushel	1.80	1.45	1.80	1.80	1.35
Tomatoes	Bushel	5.40	5.90	4.45	4.85	6.60

Table 9.- Vegetables for commercial processing: Prospective plantings, 1955, with comparisons

Crop	Planted acreage: Average 1944-53	Planted acreage: 1954	Planted acreage: Intended 1955	1955 as a percentage of: Average 1944-53	1955 as a percentage of: 1954
	Acres	Acres	Acres	Percent	Percent
Asparagus	81,760	100,850	---	---	---
Beans, green, lima	94,020	116,850	---	---	---
Beans, snap	131,260	158,470	144,250	109.9	91.0
Beets for canning	17,380	16,450	---	---	---
Cabbage for kraut		16,230			
Contract	10,060	9,770	7,840	77.9	80.2
Open market	8,500	6,460	---	---	---
Corn, sweet	500,240	484,010	436,480	87.3	90.2
Cucumbers for pickles	140,100	148,680	---	---	---
Pimientos	17,830	32,900	---	---	---
Peas, green	460,920	452,600	462,880	100.4	102.3
Spinach		32,390			---
Winter and early spring	15,800	12,500	12,600	79.7	100.8
Late spring and fall	28,150	19,890	---	---	---
Tomatoes	439,400	274,050	---	---	---
Totals - 11 crops	1,944,240	1,833,480	---	---	---

Table 10.--Vegetables, frozen: Cold-storage holdings, March 31, 1955, with comparisons

Commodity	March average 1950-54	1954 March 31	1955 January 31	1955 February 28	1955 March 31 1/
	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds
Asparagus	6,081	9,046	11,581	9,875	7,747
Beans, lima	53,239	64,847	95,083	82,717	73,484
Beans, snap	32,596	41,399	68,144	58,792	48,799
Broccoli	33,537	50,062	27,744	26,016	28,924
Brussels sprouts	14,094	22,529	27,852	25,044	23,521
Cauliflower	13,263	20,924	12,147	10,432	9,963
Corn, sweet	28,770	54,811	84,471	75,113	64,272
Peas, green	75,121	91,469	99,864	79,431	63,437
Pumpkin and squash	7,887	8,751	8,899	7,901	6,725
Spinach	27,043	32,492	19,232	14,200	17,757
Other vegetables	77,430	114,614	121,964	115,907	109,690
Total	369,061	510,944	576,981	505,428	454,319

1/ Preliminary.

Table 11.--Potatoes: Prospective plantings for 1955 season, with comparisons

Group of States	Planted acreage: Average 1944-53	1954	Indicated 1955 1/	1955 as percentage of 1954
	1,000 acres	1,000 acres	1,000 acres	Percent
Early				
13 States	376.1	239.9	258.1	107.6
Intermediate				
7 States	172.7	100.1	99.0	98.9
Late				
9 Eastern	477.1	354.2	346.2	97.7
9 Central	547.2	345.0	336.5	97.5
11 Western	430.6	384.2	394.7	102.7
Total late States	1,454.9	1,083.4	1,077.4	99.4
36 late and intermediate	1,627.6	1,183.5	1,176.4	99.4
Total United States	2,003.7	1,423.4	2/1,434.5	100.8

1/ Indications as of March 1, 1955. 2/ Assuming 1950-54 average yield by States, production from this prospective acreage would amount to 367.8 million bushels in 1955, compared with 355.1 million bushels produced in 1954.

Table 12.--Canned vegetables: United States commercial packs 1953 and 1954 and canners' and wholesale distributors' stocks indicated periods in 1954 with comparisons

Commodity	Pack		Stocks					
				Canner 1/			Wholesale Distributor 1/	
	1953	1954	Date	1954	1955	Date	1954	1955
	1,000 cases 24/2's	1,000 cases 24/2's		1,000 cases 24/2's	1,000 cases 24/2's		1,000 cases 24/2's	1,000 cases 24/2's
Major commodities								
Beans, snap	22,611	27,069	Mar.1	5,357	10,671	Jan.1	3,220	3,214
Corn, sweet	30,982	30,619	"	14,533	16,477	"	3,801	3,917
Peas, green	28,037	23,951	"	10,048	7,669	"	3,565	3,345
Tomatoes	22,334	21,795	Jan.1	7/14,183	10,476	"	3,717	3,755
Tomato juice 2/	37,754	27,062	"	7/26,802	21,489	"	3,447	3,143
Total	141,718	130,496	"	70,923	66,782	"	17,750	17,374
Minor commodities								
Asparagus	4,018	4,978	Mar.1	345	605	"	615	714
Beans, lima	3,085	3,520	Feb.1	1,486	2,276	"	662	619
Beets	8,355	7,182	Mar.1	4,182	3,765	"	1,120	1,066
Carrots	2,741	2,108	"	1,638	1,585	"	462	439
Pickles	3/22,440	3/20,740	---	---	---	"	---	---
Pimientos	1,022	693	---	---	---	"	---	---
Pumpkin and squash	2,983	2,141	Dec.1	782	---	"	668	561
Sauerkraut	3/10,722	3/ 9,926	Mar.1	5/4,872	8,232	"	882	849
Potatoes	2,786	N.A.	---	---	---	"	---	---
Sweetpotatoes	4,876	N.A.	---	---	---	"	---	---
Spinach	5,407	4/2,540	Jan.1	6/1,239	804	"	729	913
Other greens	2,255	N.A.	---	---	---	"	---	---
Tomato products:						"		
Catsup, chili sauce	14,970	16,008	Jan.1	6/7/11,487	9,682	"	1,343	1,471
Paste	6/6,454	6/5,445	"	6/7/3,631	2,714	"	---	---
Pulp and puree	3,643	3,159	"	6/7/1,622	887	"	882	948
Sauce	6/5,570	7/8,204	"	6/7/4,606	4,622	"	722	824
Vegetables, mixed	3,630	N.A.	---	---	---	"	---	---
Total, comparable minor items	91,410	86,644	---	35,108	35,172	"	8,085	8,404
Grand total Comparable items	233,128	217,140	---	106,031	101,954		25,835	25,778

1/ Converted from actual cases to standard cases of 24 No. 2 cans by S&HR Branch of AMS. 2/ Includes combination vegetable juices containing at least 70 percent tomato juice. 3/ Crop for processing converted to a canned basis by applying an overall conversion factor (pickles 68 and sauerkraut 54 cases equivalent to 1 ton fresh). 4/ Preliminary. 5/ Reported in barrels; converted to 24/2's by using 14 cases to the barrel. 6/ California only. Converted by S&HR Branch of AMS from data supplied in actual cases by the Canners League of California. 7/ Estimated.

Canners' stock and pack data from National Canners Association, unless otherwise noted. Wholesale distributors' stocks from United States Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census.

Table 13.- Potatoes, commercial early: Acreage, yield per acre, and production, 10-year average, 1944-53, annual 1954 and indicated 1955 1/

Seasonal group	Acreage			Yield per acre			Production		
	Average 1944-53 2/	1954	Indicated 1955	Average 1944-53 2/	1954	Indicated 1955	Average 1944-53 2/	1954	Indicated 1955
	Acres	Acres	Acres	Bu.	Bu.	Bu.	1,000 bu.	1,000 bu.	1,000 bu.
Winter	11,540	12,200	12,900	200	293	267	2,300	3,571	3,438
Early spring	25,220	23,000	25,250	165	275	244	3,990	6,320	6,160
Late spring	160,040	115,700	125,750	262	294	---	41,044	33,967	---
Summer	98,370	59,200	3/60,050	210	203	---	20,192	12,028	---
Total	295,180	210,100	223,950	235	266	---	67,526	55,886	---

1/ This acreage and production is later included in reports of total potatoes.
2/ Simple averages of annual data for the season.
3/ Prospective.

Table 14.- Sweetpotatoes: Prospective plantings for 1955 season, with comparisons

Group of States	Planted acreage			
	Average 1944-53	1954	Indicated 1955 1/	1955 as percentage of 1954
	1,000 acres	1,000 acres	1,000 acres	Percent
Central Atlantic 2/	43.8	42.9	43.4	101
Lower Atlantic 3/	161.3	102.0	97.0	95
South Atlantic 4/	277.1	192.5	196.2	102
North Central 5/	10.0	4.6	4.6	100
California	11.0	12.0	13.0	110
Total United States	504.2	354.0	6/ 354.2	100.1

1/ Indications as of March 1, 1955.
2/ New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland and Virginia.
3/ North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia and Florida.
4/ Kentucky, Tennessee, Alabama, Mississippi, Arkansas, Louisiana, Oklahoma and Texas.
5/ Indiana, Illinois, Iowa, Missouri and Kansas.
6/ Assuming 1949-53 average yield by States, production from this prospective acreage would amount to 33.6 million bushels compared with 29.9 million bushels in 1954.

Table 15.--Potatoes: F.O.B. prices, New York and Chicago wholesale market prices, indicated periods 1954-55, with comparisons.

Location and variety	1954 Week ended Feb. 13	Mar. 13	Apr. 10	1955 Week ended Jan. 15	Feb. 12	Mar. 12	Apr. 9
	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.
F.O.B. SHIPPING POINTS							
New Crop							
Dade County Section, Florida U.S. No. 1, Size A, Round Red (50-lb. sack) 1/	1.72	1.48	1.43	---	2.05	1.80	3.18
Old Crop							
San Luis Valley, Colorado, Red McClure 1/	2/1.46	2/1.22	1.50	3/1.96	3/1.92	3/1.92	4.00
Idaho Falls, Russet Burbank 1/ 2/	4/1.78	4/1.56	4/1.91	3.26	3.36	3.49	5.16
Connecticut River Valley Points, Massachusetts, U.S. No. 1 5/	1.13	1.08	---	2.15	2.34	2.38	---
Aroostook County points, Me. U.S. No. 1, Size A, 100 pound sacks 2/ 5/ 6/	.88	.62	1.03	2.04	2.10	1.98	2.98
Riverhead, Long Island, and nearby points 5/	---	---	---	2.63	---	---	---
Rochester, West and Central New York 5/ 6/	1.28	1.05	1.38	2.22	2.30	2.26	3.84
Lancaster-Allentown Section Pennsylvania, Katahdin, U.S. No. 1	1.31	---	---	2/2.37	2/2.44	2.40	---
West Michigan points, 5/ 6/ 7/	1.26	1.18	---	2.14	2.14	2.16	---
Wisconsin points, Madison, Wisconsin Round White variety, unwashed	1.20	1.12	---	1.90	1.91	2.12	---
	Tuesday nearest mid-month						
	Feb. 16	Mar. 16	Apr. 13	Jan. 18	Feb. 15	Mar. 15	Apr. 12
TERMINAL MARKETS							
NEW YORK							
Katahdin, Long Island	1.65	---	---	3.10	2.90	---	---
Katahdin, Maine 2/	1.83	1.72	1.95	3.10	2.98	2.95	2.90
Russet Burbank, Idaho 1/	4.10	3.87	4.05	5.25	5.37	5.62	3.75
CHICAGO							
Round Red, Midwestern 1/	1.75	1.90	2.25	2.80	2.65	2.45	5.75
Russet Burbank, Idaho 1/	3.30	8/3.40	8/3.40	4.60	4.60	4.75	6.50

1/ Washed. 2/ 2-inch minimum. 3/ 2-3" minimum. 4/ 15-20 percent, 10 oz. and larger. 5/ Various varieties. 6/ Delivered sales shipping point. 7/ 50-pound price doubled. 8/ Around 35% 10-oz. and larger.

F.O.B. prices are the simple averages of the mid-point of the range of daily prices and are compiled from Market News Reports of AMS. Market prices are submitted Tuesday of each week by Market News representatives.

Table 16.- Sweetpotatoes: F.O.B. prices at Southern Louisiana points and representative market prices (l.c.l. sales) at New York and Chicago for stock of generally good quality and condition (U.S. No. 1, when available), indicated periods 1954-55, with comparisons

Location and variety	Week ended						
	1954			1955			
	Feb. 13	Mar. 13	Apr. 10	Jan. 15	Feb. 12	Mar. 12	Apr. 9
	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.
F.O.B. SHIPPING POINTS							
S. W. Louisiana points							
Porto Rican 1/	2.96	2.80	3.95	4.34	4.41	4.45	4.39
	Tuesday nearest midmonth						
	Feb. 16	Mar. 16	Apr. 13	Jan. 18	Feb. 15	Mar. 15	Apr. 12
Terminal Markets							
NEW YORK							
New Jersey, Jersey type 2/	2.99	---	---	3.00	3.68	---	---
North Carolina, Porto Rican 2/	3.96	4.04	4.63	4.87	5.00	5.12	4.89
CHICAGO							
Louisiana, Porto Rican 1/	3.70	3.50	4.60	4.85	5.10	5.10	5.20

1/ 50-pound crate.
2/ Bushel basket.

F.O.B. prices are simple averages of the mid-point of the range of daily prices. Market prices are for Tuesday of each week and are submitted by Market News representatives to Fruit and Vegetable Section of A.M.S.

Table 17.- Average prices received by farmers, United States, for potatoes, sweetpotatoes, dry edible beans, and dry field peas, March 15, 1955, with comparisons

Commodity	Unit	1954		1955		
		Feb. 15	Mar. 15	Jan. 15	Feb. 15	Mar. 15
		Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.
FIELD CROPS						
Potatoes	Bu.	.654	.515	1.13	1.17	1.18
Sweetpotatoes	Bu.	2.58	2.52	2.83	2.97	3.10
Beans, dry, edible	Cwt.	7.93	7.99	8.27	8.24	8.18
Peas, dry, field	Cwt.	4.63	4.37	7.06	6.98	6.73

Table 18.- Peas, dry, field: Prospective plantings for 1955 season, with comparisons 1/

State	Planted acreage			
	Average 1944-53	1954	Indicated 1955 2/	1955 as percentage of 1954
	1,000 acres	1,000 acres	1,000 acres	Percent
Minnesota	5	5	4	80
North Dakota	9	4	3	75
Montana	15	4	4	100
Idaho	117	97	87	90
Wyoming	4	5	5	100
Colorado	23	11	12	110
Washington	204	147	165	112
Oregon	23	6	7	117
California	15	8	8	100
Total United States	415	287	3/295	102.8

1/ In principal commercial producing States.
2/ Indication as of March 1, 1955.
3/ Assuming planted yield per acre, by States, equals the 1949-53 average, production from the prospective acreage would be about 3,300 thousand 100-pound bags (uncleaned basis), compared with 3,484 thousand bags produced in 1954.

Table 19.- Beans, dry, edible: Prospective plantings for 1955 season, with comparison 1/

Group of States	Planted acreage			
	Average 1944-53	1954	Indicated 1955 2/	1955 as percentage of 1954
	1,000 acres	1,000 acres	1,000 acres	Percent
Maine, New York, Michigan	635	650	714	110
Nebraska, Montana, Idaho, Wyoming, Washington	317	372	384	103
Colorado, New Mexico, Arizona, and Utah	446	358	351	98
California	324	334	339	101
Total United States	1,722	1,714	3/1,788	104

1/ Includes beans grown for seed.
2/ Indications as of March 1, 1955.
3/ Assuming 1949-53 average yields per planted acre, by States, production from this prospective acreage would amount to 21.1 million 100-pound bags (uncleaned basis) in 1955, compared with 18.9 million bags produced in 1954.

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